

MORGAN HILL TRAILS & NATURAL RESOURCES STUDY

PUBLIC MEETING MAY 14, 2007



MORGAN HILL TRAILS & NATURAL RESOURCES STUDY

AGENDA

7:00 WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

City Staff
Consultant

7:10 PURPOSE OF MEETING

To Present Trails Study to the community
Collect community input and answer questions
Flowchart of Process

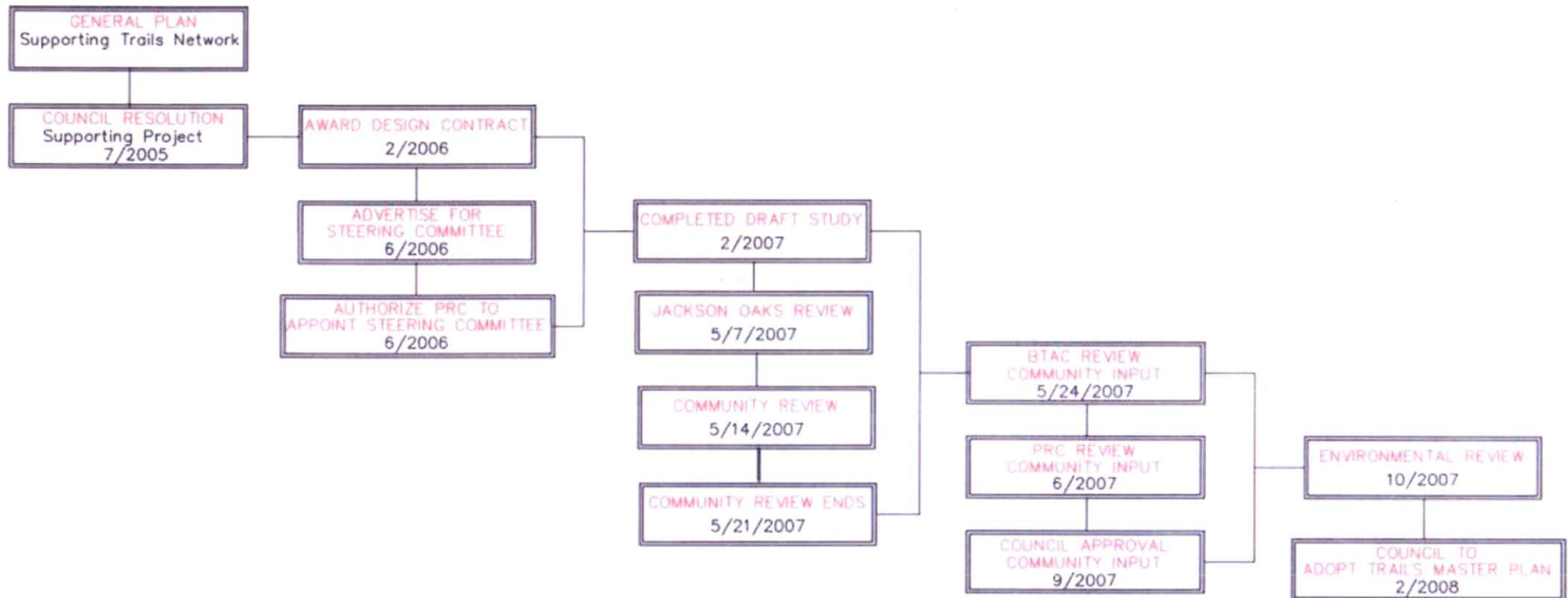
7:15 TRAILS PRESENTATION

Purpose of Trails Study
Benefits of a Trails System
Common misconceptions about trails
Review of Specific Trail Segments

7:35 QUESTION AND COMMENT PERIOD

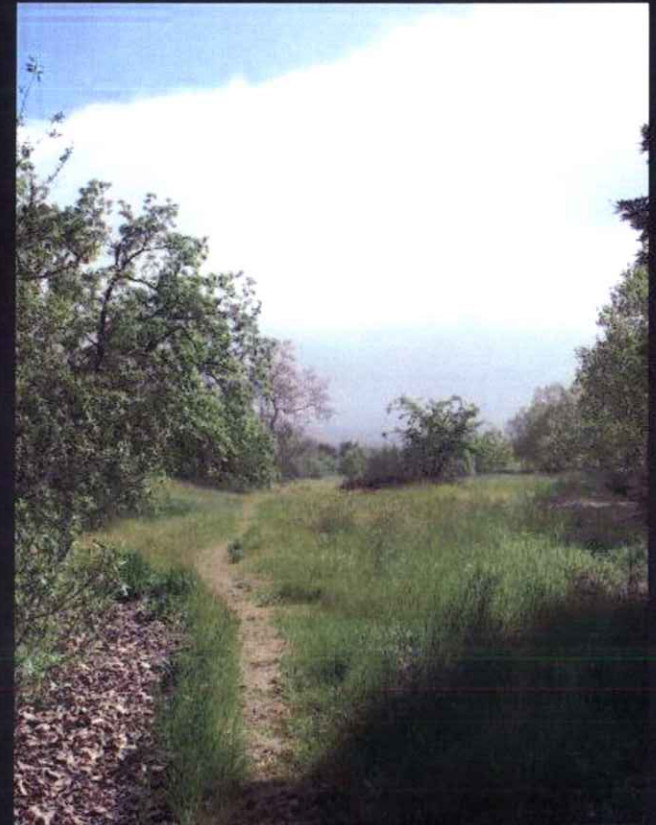
Ground rules

FLOWCHART PROCESS FOR TRAILS STUDY



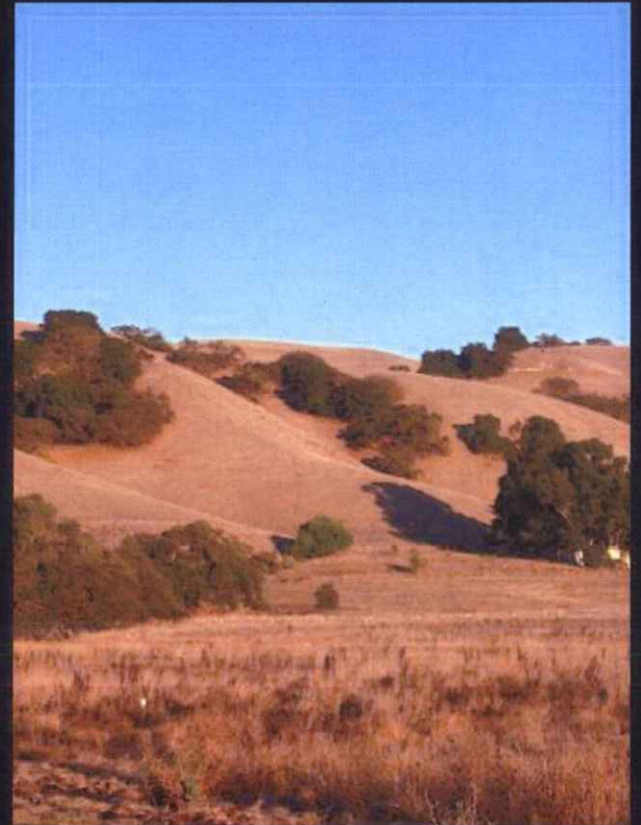
PURPOSE OF THE TRAILS STUDY

- To assess the physical feasibility of potential trails
- To assess the opportunities for connections to destinations throughout Morgan Hill including:
 - Schools
 - parks and community facilities
 - downtown and other commercial areas
 - access to transit
 - access to publicly-owned open space
- A starting point for discussion of a trails plan



BENEFITS OF A TRAIL SYSTEM

- healthy lifestyles and community quality of life
- promote pedestrian and bicycle use – reduce dependence on cars
- provide safe routes to schools for children
- provide healthful recreation – getting children and families outdoors
- provide recreation opportunities for families and children close to home
- trail amenities have positive impact on property values
- trails promote community relationships – know your neighbors

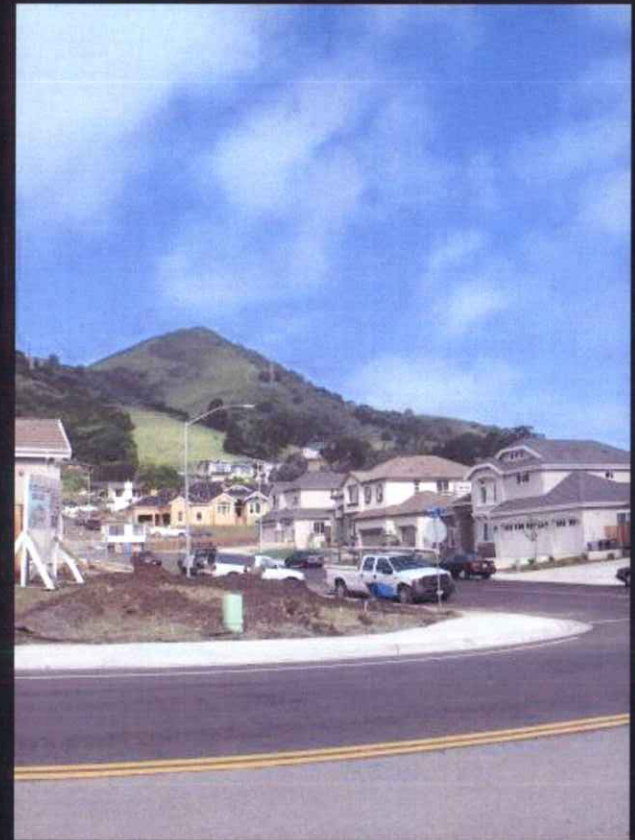


COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT TRAILS

- Trails will bring in outsiders – **False** – Trails are largely used by local residents as a local recreation resource. There will be no new public staging (parking) areas.
- Trails will bring wildfires – **False** – Most wildfires are related to roads, not trails
- Trails will increase crime – **False** – crimes reported along trails are non-existent or much lower than national averages.
- Trails will increase litter – **False** – The experience of hundreds of trails around the Bay Area is that litter is not a problem on open space trails.
- Trails disturb wildlife – **False** – open space trails with no motorized use have little or no impact on wildlife (the experience of hundreds of open space areas in the Bay Area).
- Trails will cause landslides – **False** – Unpaved open space trails require minimal grading and maintenance that will not increase landslide hazards.

TRAILS IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE & PROPERTY VALUES

- EBRPD Study:** Of residents that thought a trail was a bad idea prior to construction, 50% found the trail better than expected after construction. Only 12% felt the trail was worse than expected.
- Santa Rosa Trail Study:** 64% of residents felt a trail increased the quality of life in their neighborhood.
- 61% of real estate agents say that they use proximity to trails as a selling point.



THE TRAILS & NATURAL RESOURCES STUDY



MORGAN HILL TRAILS & NATURAL RESOURCES STUDY